

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1-34. Canceled.

35. (Currently Amended) An aqueous adhesive composition comprising (a) an aromatic nitroso compound (b) an aqueous butadiene polymer latex prepared by emulsion polymerization of at least one butadiene monomer in the presence of a stabilizer selected from styrene sulfonic acid, styrene sulfonate, poly(styrene sulfonic acid) or poly(styrene sulfonate) and an anionic surfactant, and

wherein said aqueous ~~adhesive composition~~ butadiene polymer latex is prepared in the absence of ~~absent~~ a volatile organic compound ~~cosolvent~~.

36. (Previously Presented) An adhesive composition according to claim 35 wherein the butadiene monomer is selected from 2,3-dichloro-1,3-dimethylbutadiene; chloroprene; bromoprene; 2,3-dibrom-1,3-butadiene; 1,1,2-trichlorobutadiene; cyanoprene; or hexachlorobutadiene.

37. (Previously Presented) An adhesive composition according to claim 36 wherein the butadiene monomer comprises 2,3-dichloro-1, 3-butadiene.

38. (Previously Presented) An adhesive composition according to claim 35 wherein the stabilizer comprises poly(styrene sulfonate).

39. (Previously Presented) An adhesive composition according to claim 35 wherein the butadiene polymer is prepared by copolymerization of the dichlorobutadiene with at least one copolymerizable monomer.

40. (Previously Presented) An adhesive composition according to claim 39 wherein the copolymerizable monomer comprises an α -haloacrylonitrile.

41. (Previously Presented) An adhesive composition according to claim 35 wherein the butadiene polymer latex is prepared by emulsion polymerization of at least 60 weight percent dichlorobutadiene monomer, wherein the weight percent is based on the weight of total monomers used to prepare the butadiene polymer.
42. (Previously Presented) The adhesive according to claim 35 further comprising a dispersion of a phenolic resin and a metal oxide.
43. (Previously Presented) The adhesive according to claim 35 wherein said aromatic nitroso compound is an aromatic hydrocarbon containing at least two nitroso groups attached directly to non-adjacent ring carbon atoms.
44. (Previously Presented) The adhesive according to claim 43 wherein said aromatic hydrocarbon is selected from benzene, naphthalene, anthracene, and biphenyl.
45. (Previously Presented) The adhesive according to claim 35, wherein said aromatic nitroso compound contains from 1 to 3 aromatic nuclei, including fused aromatic nuclei, and said compound contains from 2 to 6 nitroso groups attached directly to non-adjacent nuclear carbon atoms.
46. (Previously Presented) The adhesive according to claim 45 wherein said aromatic nitroso compound is dinitrosobenzene or dinitrosonaphthalene.
47. (Previously Presented) The adhesive according to claim 45 wherein said aromatic nitroso compound is selected from meta-dinitrosobenzene, para-dinitrosobenzene, meta-dinitrosonaphthalene and para-dinitrosonaphthalene.
48. (Withdrawn) The adhesive according to claim 45 wherein on said aromatic nuclei, nuclear hydrogen atoms are substituted by a group selected from alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, arylamine, arylnitroso, amino, and halogen groups.

49. (Previously Presented) The adhesive according to claim 35 wherein said aromatic nitroso compound is selected from m-dinitrosobenzene, p-dinitrosobenzene, m-dinitrosonaphthalene, p-dinitrosonaphthalene, 2,5-dinitroso-p-cymene, 2-methyl-1,4-dinitrosobenzene, 2-methyl-5-chloro-1,4-dinitrosobenzene, 2-fluoro-1,4-dinitrosobenzene, 2-methoxy-1-3-dinitrosobenzene, 5-chloro-1,3-dinitrosobenzene, 2-benzyl-1,4-dinitrosobenzene, 2-cyclohexyl-1,4-dinitrosobenzene, and combinations thereof.

50. (Currently Amended) An adhesive consisting essentially of:

- (a) an aromatic nitroso compound,
- (b) an aqueous butadiene polymer latex prepared by emulsion polymerization of at least one butadiene monomer in the presence of a stabilizer selected from styrene sulfonic acid, styrene sulfonate, poly(styrene sulfonic acid) or poly(styrene sulfonate), in the absence of a volatile organic compound,
- (c) a metal oxide, and
- (d) at least one additive selected from the group of filler, pigment, dispersing agent, wetting agent, carbon black, and silica.

51. (Previously Presented) A bonded composite comprising a metal article, an elastomer and the adhesive according to claim 35 between said metal article and said elastomer.

52. (Previously Presented) The adhesive according to claim 35 further comprising a metal article and elastomer bonded thereto.